

REMARKS

Claims 1-55 were pending in the application. Of the claims, Claims 1, 14, 31, 44 and 55 are independent claims. Claims 14-20, 22-30 and 44-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1-13, 31-43 and 55 are allowed. Claim 21 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without acquiescing to that rejection, Applicants reserve the right to file the rejected claims in a continuation application. Claims 14-20, 22-30 and 44-54 have been cancelled. Claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base Claim 14.

In view of the cancellation of Claims 14-20, 22-30 and 44-54 and amendment of Claim 21, it is believed that all Claims are in condition of allowance.

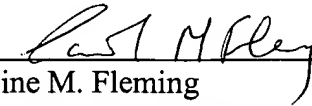
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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